

8 June 1951

Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., President
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Killian:

After discussions with the Department of State, Bureau of the Budget and others, I have come to the conclusion that there is only one reason why nothing has been done as yet regarding the appointment of a Telecommunications Advisor or Board. As nearly as I can determine, this is inertia born of circumstances.

Mr. Stauffacher, who had the burden of pushing this project to a conclusion in the Bureau of the Budget, has been farmed out as an assistant to Mr. Wilson, and has carried the project with him. I suspect that Mr. Wilson has kept him so busy that he has not had a decent opportunity to keep after the appointment.

As is often the case in such matters, there is no one left to exert a little pressure upon the subject after a Board terminates, and it is not to be expected that the users themselves, who are quite happy to continue in status quo, should exert this pressure.

However, in my discussions with State, I promised, among other things, to write to you and present the facts as they exist and urge you, as well as the other Board members, to express your concern over the matter to the Director of the Budget, (Mr. Frederick J. Lawton).

I believe that this will help and am enclosing a few thoughts that may be of assistance in formulating a letter to that gentleman, urging him to turn up the gas a bit.

Hope this finds you and yours well and happy and if I can supply any further information or be of any assistance, you have but to call upon me.

Sincerely,

F. C. Alexander

P. S. Haraden Pratt seems to have been decided upon, by all concerned, as the one candidate who would be satisfactory. He told me that while he would not go into a dance of ecstasy at the prospect, he felt that he could not do less than accept.

F. C. Alexander

ORIG: DAVID H. O'BRIEN
DR. LEE A. DOBRIDGE
DR. IRVIN STEWART
DEAN WILLIAM L. EVERITT
DR. JAMES R. KILLIAN, JR.

ATTACH: JUNE (1)

STAT

It is my understanding that there has been no serious objection on the part of the Government Agencies concerned, to the establishment of a Telecommunications Advisory Body in the Executive Offices, as recommended in the report of the Presidents Communications Policy Board.

It is my further understanding that the Federal Government Agencies concerned have been unable, as yet, to reach an agreed position relative to the forthcoming Radio Conference for the purpose of implementing the frequency allocation table agreed to at Atlantic City in 1947. As this conference is scheduled for August of this year, it is important that such a position be formulated well in advance of the conference itself.

As expressed in our report to the President, the establishment of an Advisory Body within the Executive Offices is the only immediate step that can assist this continuing situation wherein the United States has been unable to reach a position.

I have a deep interest in this matter by virtue of my association with the Presidents Board during it's life and am convinced that the Advisory Body should be formulated with an absolute minimum of delay.

I sincerely urge you to lend the weight of your office and bureau to the early establishment of this necessary Advisory Body.

West Virginia University

MORGANTOWN

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 11, 1951

Mr. Frederick J. Lawton
Director of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lawton:

You may recall that some months ago President Truman appointed a Communication's Policy Board, which presented its report in February, 1951. One recommendation in the Board's report was the establishment of a Telecommunications Advisor or Advisory Board in the Executive Office of the President.

It is my understanding that the Board's report has had a generally favorable reception by the Government Agencies concerned and that none has raised any serious objection to it. While I am not informed as to the reasons why the report has not yet been implemented, I have had enough experience in government to suspect that inertia may be a factor.

One factor leading to the original establishment of the Board was the inability of Federal Government Agencies to reach a position for the United States Government at the forthcoming Radio Conference which is supposed to implement the frequency allocation table agreed upon at the Atlantic City Conference in 1947. Our Board felt that one of the early functions of the proposed Telecommunications Advisor would be to bring the Government Agencies into agreement before the forthcoming conference. That conference is scheduled for August, 1951. The failure of the American Government to reach a position as of this date (June, 1951) underlines the importance of having the new agency created with a minimum of delay.

As a member of the President's Communications Policy Board, I hope that its report may be made effective without any unnecessary delay. Accordingly, I shall appreciate it if you will look into the matter and lend such support as you think proper to the implementation of the Board's report.

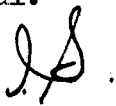
Respectfully yours,

Irvin Stewart

cc: Mr. F. C. Alexander

Dear Alex:

I hope this will be helpful.



11 June 1951

Mr. Frederick J. Lawton
Director of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lawton:

It is my understanding that there has been no serious objection on the part of the Government agencies concerned, to the establishment of a Telecommunications Advisory Body in the Executive Offices, as recommended in the report of the President's Communications Policy Board.

It is my further understanding that a conference is scheduled for August of this year for the purpose of implementing the frequency allocation table agreed to at Atlantic City in 1947. It is important that the Federal Government Agencies concerned reach an agreed position well in advance of this conference.

As expressed in our report to the President, the establishment of an Advisory Body within the Executive Offices is the only immediate step that can be of assistance in this connection.

I have a deep interest in this matter by virtue

of my association with the President's Board and am
convinced that the Advisory Body should be formulated
with a minimum of delay.

I sincerely urge you to lend the weight of your
office and bureau to the early establishment of
this Advisory Body.

Very truly yours,

D. H. O'Brien

Member
President's Communications
Policy Board

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HACKETTSTOWN
NEW JERSEY

11 June 1951

Mr. F. C. Alexander

Dear Alex:

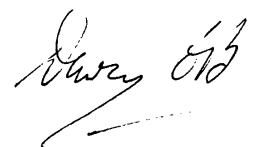
You just got under the wire with your letter of June the 8th. If I live until Wednesday afternoon I will be on the Britannic bound for Europe.

Copy of a letter sent to Mr. Frederick J. Lawton is enclosed. Hope this is what you wanted.

My trip through Europe is along the lines discussed with you. What I can accomplish is on the knees of the gods but I do want you to know that I am still trying.

Will write to you from Europe. Who knows mayhap we can get together when you attend the conference. Of course you are going to be there. In all haste, ever the best

Sincerely,





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 12, 1951

Mr. F. C. Alexander

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Dear Alex:

Thank you for your letter. I have talked with Mr. Stauffacher several times, and he has assured me each time that the recommendations of the Board would be carried through, that the principal problem was to find the right man or men. I will have an opportunity soon to be in touch with him again, and I will carry through on your suggestion and urge prompt action.

It would give me pleasure to have the opportunity to see you again, and I hope that our paths will cross in Washington or elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

J. R. Killian, Jr.
J. R. Killian, Jr.
President

JRK:mh

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PASADENA

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 12, 1951

Mr. F. C. Alexander



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Dear Sir:

Your letter of June 8th to Dr. DuBridge, regarding the appointment of a Telecommunications Advisor or Board, arrived just after he had left for the East. Dr. DuBridge will not return until about July 1st and I will hold your letter for him. You will hear from him shortly after that time. I hope this delay of about three weeks will not be too inconvenient.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edythe W. Baker", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Edythe W. Baker
Secretary